

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 10877 011041Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-10 L-03
NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-11 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-15 INT-05 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00 PA-01 /132 W
-----074957 020221Z /65

R 011028Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9461
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 10877

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

GENEVA PASS LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, SENV, EWWT, ENRG, FR, UK, XG, XT
SUBJ: AMOCO CADIZ OIL SPILL - TWO WEEKS LATER,
ATMOSPHERE AND U.S. INTERESTS

REFS: (A) PARIS 10659, (B) PARIS 10528, (C) PARIS 1U490

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: NOW THAT THE LAST OF HER CARGO HAS
ESCAPED INTO THE SEA AND SALVAGE EFFORTS HAVE THUS
BEEN ABANDONED, THE AMOCO CADIZ HERSELF CEASES TO BE
OF IMPORTANCE. HER LEGACY WILL BE WITH US FOR SOME
TIME, HOWEVER, AND WE MUST NOW SHIFT OUR FOCUS AWAY
FROM THE IMMEDIATE (AND UNFORTUNATELY LARGELY
UNSUCCESSFUL) OPERATIONAL CONCERNS OF THE PAST TWO
WEEKS. WHAT WILL CONFRONT US IN THE FUTURE WILL BE A
NEED TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE GENERAL POLITICO-ECONOMIC
FALLOUT WHICH IS ALREADY HITTING THE GOF AND TO
ASCERTAIN WHERE U.S. INTERESTS WILL BECOME INVOLVED.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 10877 011041Z

THE MONITORING OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MANY PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE U.S. AGENCIES WHICH ARE OR WILL BECOME
INVOLVED IN THE CLEAN-UP WILL ALSO REQUIRE OUR
ATTENTION. WE CAN BE THANKFUL THAT, TO DATE, CRITICISM
OF THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN THIS
AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. IT HAS NOW BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE THE AMOCO CADIZ BEGAN TO FOUNDER ON THE PORTSALL ROCKS. SALVAGE OPERATIONS HAVING BEEN RENDERED IMPOSSIBLE BY PERSISTENT BAD WEATHER, THE LAST 20 THOUSAND OF HER 220 THOUSAND TON CARGO OF ARABIAN AND IRANIAN LIGHT CRUDE HAS FINALLY -- PERHAPS MERCIFULLY -- BEEN FREED BY NAVY EXPLOSIVE CHARGES TO SLIP INTO THE SEA. IT WAS THE LARGEST SINGLE MARITIME OIL SPILL EVER; THE SHIP'S FINAL COUP DE GRACE COMING AT THE INSISTENCE OF LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO WERE INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED AT THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS FLOW OF NEW OIL AND THE AUTHORITIES' OBVIOUS POWERLESSNESS IN DEALING WITH THE WRECK. NORTH FINISTERE IS JUST STARTING TO RECOVER FROM ITS STATE OF SHOCK. AS ITS CIVIL DEFENSE CLEAN-UP EFFORTS AT LAST MOVE FORWARD, WE CAN ALSO EXPECT POLITICAL ARTICULATION OF THE WOES STEMMING FROM THE DISASTER. THE GOF IS DEFENSIVE AND THE ELEMENTS OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY INVOLVED ARE MORTIFIED.

3. THE AFFAIR NOW ENTERS A NEW PHASE. FROM HERE ON, THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE DISASTER WILL OCCUPY OUR ATTENTION. THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO DO THIS. UNION SUITS AGAINST AMOCO, UNILATERALLY ESTABLISHED NAVIGATION REGULATIONS (REFS B AND C), AND AN ANNOUNCED CONSUMER COMMITTEE TO BOYCOTT SHELL ARE MANIFESTATIONS OF A DISCONTENT THAT IS GOING TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 10877 011041Z

AROUND FOR SOME TIME.

4. IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, WE WILL NEED TO KEEP ABREAST OF SPECIFIC SITUATIONS INVOLVING DIRECT U.S. INTERESTS. WE WILL NEED TO MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MANY PRIVATE AMERICAN AS WELL AS USG AGENCIES (NOAA, EPA, USFWS, USCG, NTSB, ETC.) WHICH ARE BECOMING INVOLVED. FINALLY, THE IMAGE OF AMERICAN BUSINESS IS ALWAYS A TOUCHY SUBJECT HERE, AND THE AMOCO CADIZ DENOUEMENT COULD MAKE IT MORE SO. WE CAN CONSIDER OURSELVES FORTUNATE THAT GENERAL CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN THIS AFFAIR SO FAR. HARTMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ATMOSPHERE, OIL SPILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS10877
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780142-0964
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804103/aaaadjwr.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e6935a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PARIS 10659, 78 PARIS 10528, 78 PARIS 1
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2826422
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMOCO CADIZ OIL SPILL - TWO WEEKS LATER, ATMOSPHERE AND U.S. INTERESTS
TAGS: PLOS, SENV, EWWT, ENRG, FR, UK, XG, XT
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e6935a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014